

## *IN THE CLAIMS*

1. (Currently Amended) A supporting structure ~~for a scanner having a housing and a platform for receiving documents thereon connected to at least a wall of the housing, the supporting structure,~~ comprising:

a supporting surface ~~connected to the~~ pressing up against a platform of the a scanner,  
the platform including a transparent sheet; and

an absorbing body located beneath the supporting surface ~~capable of resilient deformation to absorb an external stress received by the supporting surface in response to an external force , wherein said supporting structure is integrally formed with the scanner housing,~~ wherein at least a portion of the absorbing body is compressively deformable in a downward and laterally outward direction in response to an external force being exerted on the platform.

2. (Currently Amended) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the supporting surface and absorbing body is are located along a periphery against a side of the platform a scanner housing.

3. (Currently Amended) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the absorbing body further comprises an inclined structure a bottom surface pressing down against a bottom surface of a scanner housing wherein the supporting surface, absorbing body, and the bottom surface are all integrally formed together as a unitary structure.

4. (Cancelled).

5. (Cancelled).

6. (Currently Amended) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein the absorbing body comprises: ~~a substantially curved structure~~

an elongated top beam that presses directly up against a bottom side of the platform supporting the platform, the supporting surface being a top side of the top beam; and

an inclined beam extending downward at an inclined angle from a bottom side of the top beam.

7. (Cancelled).

8. (Cancelled).

9. (Currently Amended) The supporting structure of claim 1, ~~wherein the absorbing body comprises an inclined portion and 6~~ including a substantially curved portion integrally formed with a bottom end of the inclined beam and pressing directly down against a bottom side of a scanner housing.

10. (Currently Amended) The supporting structure of claim 9 1, wherein the absorbing body comprises a substantially "5" shape that has a top surface that presses directly up against a bottom side of the platform and a bottom surface that presses directly down against a bottom surface of a scanner housing.

11. (Currently Amended) The supporting structure of claim 1, ~~wherein the absorbing body includes an inclined beam that extends directly down from the supporting surface at an inclined angle with respect to the supporting surface, and wherein the platform comprises glass~~ at least a portion of the absorbing body is compressively deformable to vary the inclined angle of the beam with respect to the supporting surface in response to the external force being exerted on the platform.

12. (Cancelled)

13. (Currently Amended) A scanner having a housing, comprising:

a platform for receiving documents thereon connected to at least a wall of the housing, the platform including a transparent sheet;

~~a plurality of support elements~~ element integrally formed with the housing, ~~at least one of the support elements~~ element including:

a supporting surface ~~on at least one of the support elements, the supporting surface capable of contacting the platform of the scanner; and~~

an absorbing body located beneath the supporting surface ~~the absorbing body capable of resilient deformation to absorb a stress received by the supporting surface in response to an external force, the absorbing body including an inclined beam that extends directly down from the supporting surface at an inclined angle with respect to the supporting surface and~~

wherein the absorbing body is compressively deformable to vary the inclined angle of the inclined beam with respect to the supporting surface.

14. (Currently Amended) The scanner of claim 13, wherein ~~at least one of the support elements~~ element is located along a periphery of the platform.

15. (Currently Amended) The scanner of claim 13, wherein ~~the absorbing body comprises an inclined portion~~ at least a portion of the absorbing body is compressively deformable in a downward and laterally outward direction in response to an external force being exerted on the platform.

16. (Cancelled).

17. (Cancelled).

18. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, wherein the absorbing body comprises a substantially curved structure.

19. (Cancelled).

20. (Cancelled).

21. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, wherein the absorbing body comprises an inclined portion and a substantially curved portion.

22. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 21, wherein the absorbing body comprises a substantially "5" shape.

23. (Cancelled).

24. (Cancelled).

25. (Previously Presented) The scanner of claim 13, wherein ~~at least one of the support elements~~ element is integrally formed with the inner wall of the housing.

26. (Currently Amended) The scanner claim 13, further comprising a stand ~~located on~~  
integrally formed with a bottom floor of the housing, ~~the stand capable of~~ and supporting the  
absorbing body.

27. (Cancelled).

28. (Currently Amended) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein said supporting  
structure is ~~capable of being~~ integrally formed with ~~the~~ an inner wall of ~~the~~ a scanner  
housing.

29. (Currently Amended) The supporting structure of claim 1, wherein said absorbing  
body is ~~capable of being~~ supported by a stand located on a bottom floor of ~~the~~ a scanner  
housing.

30. (Cancelled)

31. (Cancelled)

32. (Cancelled)

33. (Cancelled)

34. (Currently Amended) An apparatus, comprising:  
means for supporting a platform of a scanner, the platform including a transparent  
sheet; and  
means for resiliently and compressively deforming to absorb an external stress  
received by the means for supporting a platform of the scanner, wherein the means for  
resiliently and compressively deforming to absorb an external stress ~~includes : a first means~~  
~~for resiliently deforming to absorb the external stress~~ varies an inclined angle of an inclined  
beam ; and  
~~second means for resiliently deforming to absorb the external stress, wherein the~~  
~~second means has a level of deformation different from a level of deformation of the first~~  
~~means~~ while deforming in both a downward direction and a laterally outward direction.

35. (Previously Presented) The apparatus of claim 34, wherein the means for supporting a platform of a scanner comprises one or more of the following: an inclined structure, a substantially curved structure, an inclined portion and a substantial curved portion, and /or a substantial "S" shape, or combinations thereof.

36. (Cancelled).

37. (New) A supporting structure comprising:  
a supporting surface pressing up against a transparent sheet; and  
an absorbing body located beneath the supporting surface, wherein the absorbing body is compressively deformable in response to an external force being exerted on the transparent sheet and wherein the supporting surface and the absorbing surface are integrally formed together as a unitary structure.

38. (New) The supporting structure of claim 37, wherein the supporting surface and absorbing body are integrally formed together with a scanner housing.

39. (New) The supporting structure of claim 37 wherein a first portion of the absorbing body comprises:

an elongated top beam that presses directly up against a bottom side of the platform;  
and

an inclined beam extending downward at an inclined angle with respect to a bottom side of the top beam, wherein the inclined beam is compressively deformable to vary the inclined angle of the inclined beam with respect to the top beam in response to the external force being exerted on the platform.

40. (New) The supporting structure of claim 39, wherein a second portion of the absorbing body below the first portion of the absorbing body is compressively deformable in a downward and laterally outward direction in response to the external force being exerted on the platform.

41. (New) A supporting structure comprising:  
means for supporting a transparent sheet; and  
means for compressively deforming the supporting means in response to an external force being exerted on the transparent sheet, wherein the supporting means and the deforming means are integrally formed together as a unitary structure.
42. (New) The supporting structure of claim 41, wherein the supporting means and the deforming means are integrally formed together with a scanner housing.
43. (New) The supporting structure of claim 41, further comprising means for moving the deforming means both in a downward direction and laterally outward direction in response to the external force being exerted on the platform.
44. (New) The supporting structure of claim 41 further comprising means for varying an inclined angle of the deforming means with respect to the supporting means in response to the external force being exerted on the platform.